



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine  
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
US Department of Agriculture  
OMB Information Collection  
Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

## Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: PA114**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Franklin, Fulton and Bedford counties, Pennsylvania

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position: Intersection of State Route 30(Business) and State Route 26, Breezewood, PA 15533

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☒ Other : General livestock ,including farmed deer

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This region contains 3,321 farms, of which 1,062 have annual sales above \$40,000. NASS data (2007) indicates 319,100 food animals are being serviced by 18 veterinarians (majority - SE region) ( 17,727 animals per veterinarian). There are large cattle and hog populations plus an increasing number of niche market herds (camelids, cervids and small ruminants). The region is divided in half by a ridge of mountains oriented North/South which significantly limits accessibility between eastern and western portions. Animal agriculture in this area is diverse ranging from large commercial cattle, swine and poultry operations to small niche market animal enterprises. Increasing veterinarian availability will benefit all sectors of the animal agriculture community. Benefits will accrue from improved bio-security, disease prevention and control, responsible animal drug use, pre harvest food safety, and livestock care/well-being. The addition of a minimum 30% food supply practitioner working in a mixed practice in the NW region would be of particular value to small producers. Cervids, camelids, and small ruminants pose a significant infectious disease risk to commercial food animal operations. Hands-on veterinarian involvement with small producers will increase the quality, safety, and value of products from small food animal operations and ultimately their economic viability.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The veterinarian recruited to this area will spend at least 30% of their time in food animal practice and the balance with companion animals. Beyond medical and surgical services, this individual will be involved with client outreach and producer education related to production medicine, animal drug residue avoidance, bio-security principles, disease control and animal health monitoring, and livestock well-being. This aspect of practice activity is projected to expand with the planned reduction of Penn State University's cooperative extension activities over the next several years. Small farm food supply veterinary medical outreach will enhance animal disease surveillance in a segment of the industry that previously had minimal exposure to professional veterinary services with potential animal health, food safety, and public health benefits. Serving a mixed practice clientele will provide this veterinarian the opportunity to educate non-farm companion animal clients on the critical role of production agriculture in society. Involvement in community organizations and schools provides avenues for youth mentoring, education of the general public and specific producer group meetings.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Three food animal practitioners in the central/NW Franklin county area are at or beyond retirement age and have been unsuccessfully seeking new food animal oriented associates for a minimum of five years. Several of the mixed animal practices in this county which provide routine large animal service are unwilling to respond to emergencies. A fourth practitioner in Mercersburg has abandoned large animal practice due to physical limitations and the inability to attract an associate willing to continue food animal service. Similar situations exist in the western half of the region (Fulton Co.) according to the existing practitioners.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

This area has a growing demand for food animal veterinary service from a diverse producer base. The number of practitioners willing to provide that service could shrink by 25% or more in the near future due to retirement. Traditional veterinary medical and surgical services will always be required, but increasingly there is a need for practitioners with the skills and desire to provide client education on critical topics including animal husbandry, animal care and well-being, disease recognition and prevention, bio-security, responsible animal drug use, production economics, and pre-harvest food safety.

This shortage area adjoins Maryland's Allegany County where CWD was recently diagnosed in free ranging deer. Garret and Allegany Counties (MD) comprise an approved VMLRP shortage area. Hereford County West Virginia, an endemic CWD area, is less than 40 miles from the Pennsylvania border. Several states have imposed import restrictions on farmed cervids from South-central Pennsylvania. The cervid farming industry has limited veterinarian contact and poses a significant risk to cattle health. We judge an accredited veterinarian monitoring cervid health and diseases such as TB as critical to PA cattle health.

Another risk to commercial food animal production is the presence of a large rural non-farm population with backyard animals, poultry and youth project animals. Overextended food animal practitioners with commercial herd responsibilities limited by time and distance, cannot devote personnel to veterinary care, health testing, and certification of these animals for exhibition or niche farm production. Nevertheless these animals pose a significant health risk to commercial herds and flocks

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Craig E. Shultz, DVM

Title: Director, Bureau of Animal Health and  
Diagnostic Services

Organization: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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